

REMARKS

Claims 40-75 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 76-127 have been added. No new matter has been added by virtue of the new claims. For instance, support for the new claims appears e.g. at page 6, lines 10-12; page 8, lines 15-16; page 11, lines 24-26; page 16, lines 1-7 and the original claims of the application.

Claims 1-56 and 58-74 were rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims of U.S. Patent 6,733,771.

To expedite prosecution, a suitable Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith.

Claims 40, 41, 43, 44, 46, 47 and 54-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over CH535006.

Claims 40, 41, 43, 44, 46-50, 54, 56 and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Von Brunningen GB.

Claims 40, 41, 46, 47, 54 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Thomas et al. (U.S. Patent 3924573).

Claims 40, 42-44, 46, 51, 52, 54, 55, 57, 58, 60-62, 64, 69, 70, 72, 73 and 75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Magnant et al. (U.S. Patent 5787839).

Claims 40-44, 46-52 and 54-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Phillippi (U.S. Patent 5377620).

For the sake of brevity, the several Section 102 and 103 rejections are addressed in combination. The rejections are traversed.

The pending claims include three independent claims – claims 76, 95 and 116.

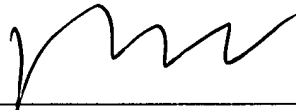
Claims 76 and 95 recite subject matter related to former claims 45 and 63 respectively. Those former claims were not subject to rejection under Section 102 or 103. Accordingly, it is believed claims 76 and 95 are allowable.

Similarly, independent claim 116 recites subject matter of former claim 59, which former claim was not subject to rejection under Section 102 or 103.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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